



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
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Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: AK115

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Kodiak Island and the Aleutian Islands, Alaska

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position: Kodiak, Island

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : Bison, elk, reindeer, yak

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Provide service to livestock producers (beef, bison, elk, yak, goat, poultry) on Kodiak Island, Sitkinak Island, and several of the Aleutian Islands. There are half dozen grazing operations on several of the islands; the largest is on Umnak Island (7,000 beef and 6,000 reindeer). According to NASS there are 11 farms with a total of over 11,500 beef cattle grazing on the largest open grass land in the state. This position could provide support as a consultant and advisor to the management of the remote island herds. There are numerous homestead farms, back yard operations providing food for local families and farm market in the city of Kodiak. This position would provide service to these small farms and backyard poultry operations and consult to the larger livestock operations on Kodiak Island. Many of these operations use horses to manage the beef herds so equine experience would be needed.

There is a slaughter house on Kodiak and Umnak Islands. Several of the islands from Sand Point to Sitkinak have beef operations. In 2009 a mobile slaughter plant was constructed (modular plant transported on a barge to the island herds) and is based on Kodiak Island. This facility allows cattle owners on site slaughter and processing and the ability to market fresh and retort products. The plant has successfully operated on Sitkinak Island for the last two years. Staffing this facility by FSIS is expensive to support and burdensome due to the remote location, smaller number of animals processed (per day and per year) and seasonal operation. I would envision this position as having the opportunity to contract for USDA FSIS to provide inspection service for the seasonal operation of this mobile plant and possibly the other two facilities.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Clinical operation of a mixed animal practice; 70% domestic pets and 30% food producing animals, to include contract support for slaughter inspection for seasonal operation of the mobile slaughter unit. Routine health care operations at a clinic, as well as, a mobile large animal practice to possibly extend to island herds in the immediate vicinity of Kodiak Island. Herd health consultation to more remote island herds (Umnak, Chirikof). This position would interact with University of Fairbanks Cooperative Extension officers for forage analysis and nutritional management.

This position would also support emergency response to morbidity/mortality investigations and emergency response to any hazards that would impact animal health. This area has experienced different natural disasters such as: earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic emissions.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

No previous efforts to recruit veterinary services have been made from this office. Two practitioners providing services to the livestock owners left the island in 2006; one to pursue a graduate degree, the other left as the company that employed her husband relocated his position. The remaining clinic on the island is strictly a small animal practice and provides no service to livestock. Most producers use long distance (phone, radio) consultation to practitioners to provide herd management support. Livestock operators have made requests of this office and University Cooperative Extension for support and in the summer of 2010, two sheep and goat owners contacted this office requesting veterinary support for the development of a small ruminant dairy with secondary meat and fiber production. This office has provided outreach education on food safety and bio-security, herd risk assessments to address Johne's disease as well as diagnostic surveillance for brucellosis and tuberculosis. Support from Cooperative Extension is very limited as there is only one livestock specialist to serve the entire state.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Risk for not securing a food animal practitioner: Food security is major concern, as well as, food safety for products sold in local farm markets and emergency response to a disease outbreak. The elimination of local production of food would restrict these island communities to rely on products being shipped in for sale and distribution. Without veterinary support producers will be limited in their ability to efficiently raise livestock and more producers will likely cease production. Herd health management consultation could increase production and profit for producers and so expand the market for the free range organic beef and reindeer raised on the remote island grasslands. This position has great potential to be an asset for the USDA FSIS in supporting the seasonal operation of the mobile slaughter plant and the intermittent operation of the other two slaughter facilities (Kodiak and Umnak Islands).

Without support from veterinary practitioners in the field the state and agricultural industry will be ill prepared to identify and diagnose morbidity and mortality events that can have impact on animal and public health. In addition, without this position the state may not be able to effectively manage emergency response to a hazard that impacts domestic animals and animal health.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

NIFA is not requesting information in support of this type of agreements at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Robert F. Gerlach, VMD

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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